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achromatic at Washington—a remarkable feat for so small a telescope, and one requiring a keen-sighted observer at the eye-end.

"Among other phenomena which engaged the attention of Dr. Erck was the appearance of *Jupiter's* surface in the year 1880, at which time the red spot was very conspicuous. He appears to have been one of the first, if not the very first, to notice the proper motion of this spot with regard to the general surface of the planet. The appearance of *Saturn's* rings and the comparative brightness of his satellites also engaged a good deal of his attention from time to time, although he does not appear to have published the results of these observations. Indeed, his published works bear a very small proportion to the extent of his labours, and, to judge exclusively by this standard, one would form a most inadequate estimate of his astronomical activity. Those who have known him, however, will not lightly forget his zeal and enthusiasm, and the interest he took in all questions touching his favourite science, or the hearty manner and ready hospitality which made a visit to the Sherrington Observatory so memorable and agreeable."

Dr. Wentworth Erck contributed several papers to the *Monthly Notices* on observational astronomy and instrumental appliances.

Dr. Erck's devotion to science was not allowed to interfere with the discharge of his duties as a Poor-Law guardian, a magistrate, and a country gentleman. He was at one time invited to stand for Parliament in the Conservative interest, but declined. That the energy he displayed in his public duties used up his capital of health and shortened his life there can be little doubt; but his appetite for work was keen and his spirit indomitable, and he always expressed the desire, which was granted him, to "die in harness." His unfailing good temper, his child-like heart, his simplicity of character, and his perfect contentment attracted to him a wide feeling of respect.

His death took place at his residence on January 15 of the past year.

He was elected a Fellow of this Society March 9, 1855.

Edward Charles Frome was born at Gibraltar on January 7, 1802. He was the son of the Rev. J. T. Frome, a member of a well-known Dorsetshire family. He was educated first at a school at Bexley, afterwards at a school at Blackheath, where he was a schoolfellow of Benjamin Disraeli. In his fifteenth year he entered the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich, where he studied engineering under Olinthus Gregory and Peter Barlow, and attended the science lectures of Faraday. He distinguished himself in all his examinations, and passed out for his commission at the head of his batch. There were at that time no vacancies in the Royal Engineers, and it was not

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till the year 1825 that he was gazetted second lieutenant in this branch of the service.

Early in his career, in 1827, he was ordered to Canada, where he made the whole of the surveys for the Rideau Canal, connecting the Ottawa River with Kingston on Lake Ontario. The construction of the main part of this important work he superintended until its completion.

In 1835 he succeeded Lieutenant, afterwards Sir William Denison, at Chatham as Instructor in Surveying and Practical Astronomy. At this time he published his work entitled "An Outline of the Method of Conducting a Trigonometrical Survey."

In 1839 Lieutenant Frome was offered the post of Surveyor-General of the Colony of South Australia. He accepted the appointment on condition that he should have the sole control of the work. At this time the work of the survey was lamentably in arrear, and the greatest confusion existed as to the boundaries of land. Captain Frome, who had been promoted soon after his arrival in the colony, undertook, as his first work, a thorough system of triangulation, afterwards employing a staff of some 400 men, in independent surveying parties of 10 men each, to fill in the details. The result of this organisation was, that in a comparatively short time the work of the survey was brought well in advance of the requirements of the Land Commissioners, and the cost greatly reduced.

It was for the use of these independent surveying parties that Captain Frome published his pamphlet of "Instructions for the Interior Survey of South Australia," which was afterwards incorporated in the later edition of his work on "Trigonometrical Surveying." This has long been a standard work, and a fourth edition of it, greatly enlarged, and edited by Sir Charles Warren, has recently appeared. For ten years Captain Frome was engaged in surveys which embraced all the then known parts of South Australia, and in addition a considerable portion which he was the first to explore. He returned to England in 1849. In 1851 he was appointed Surveyor-General of Mauritius—an appointment which he held until 1858, when he returned home. In 1863 Colonel Frome went out as Commanding Royal Engineer to Gibraltar, and in 1868 he succeeded Sir John Burgoyne as Inspector-General of Fortifications and Inspector of the corps of Royal Engineers. Subsequently he was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of Guernsey, which post he held for five years.

General Frome throughout his long life took the keenest interest in everything connected with engineering. Whatever he undertook he did thoroughly and well. He was a man of a high tone of mind, the first principle which guided his life being the call of duty. He was modest and unassuming in character and was honoured and respected by all who knew or had served under him. When he died on February 12, 1890, he was at the head of his corps, of which he was the senior Colonel Commandant.

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General Frome was an Associate of the Institution of Civil Engineers for fifty-two years. He was elected a Fellow of this Society May 11, 1838.

HARRY TAYLOR was born at Bocking, in the County of Essex, on May 29, 1831. He was a descendant of an old Huntingdonshire family which formerly bore the name of Taylard. Mr. Taylor received his education at Mr. Malleson's school at Hove, and at University College, London. He took much interest in astronomy, but did not devote himself to any special research. As a business man he was extremely shrewd and clever, and possessed faculties that were of high value to the firm of which he was a member. He died April 27, 1890, after a short illness.

He was elected a Fellow of this Society November 10, 1871.

ALFRED WELD was born on August 5, 1823. He was the son of Mr. George Weld, of Seagrave, and grandson of Mr. Thomas Weld, of Lulworth—a well-known county family. He was educated at Stonyhurst, where he took a prominent place. In 1842 he entered the Society of Jesus, and in 1847 graduated at the London University. In 1848 he took charge of the meteorological observatory at Stonyhurst, in which position he continued for three years.

During this period, in 1848, the late Father Secchi, who was then a theological student, came to Stonyhurst in consequence of the expulsion of the Jesuits from Rome. Father Weld showed him round the Observatory, and interested him so much in the work that there are some grounds for believing Secchi was thereby induced to devote himself to astronomy. There is a tradition at Stonyhurst that Secchi's first astronomical observations were made with the 4-inch equatoreal of that Observatory.

In 1851 Father Weld retired from scientific work in order to devote himself to theological studies. He was ordained in 1854, and resumed charge of the Observatory in 1857.

In the magnetic survey of Great Britain, undertaken by Sir Edward Sabine in 1858, Father Weld was much interested; and having purchased a set of instruments, he inaugurated that series of magnetic observations which has been carried on uninterruptedly at Stonyhurst Observatory to the present time. At this period also he organised the astronomical work of the College.

In 1860 Father Weld resigned charge of the Observatory, and was succeeded by the late Father Perry.

In 1864 he was made Provincial of the English Province of the Society of Jesus, and in that position did much to aid and encourage the work at the Stonyhurst Observatory. In 1871 he was appointed Rector of the theological college of St. Beunc. In 1873 he became assistant to the Father-General of the Society